

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 181 SD1, RELATING TO VETERANS
PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

April 1, 2015

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 181 SD1. Recommend to insert the repealed language of Act 133, SLH 2012, Section 38 in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This bill allows the Department of Education to continue awarding veteran's high school diplomas to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services of the United States until June 30, 2020.

For example, this measure would help individuals who received draft notices during the Vietnam Conflict and had to curtail their formal schooling to support our National interest and efforts abroad. With recognition and commemoration events forthcoming with the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, there may be citizens who were unaware of this special bill that was enacted several years ago to award them a veteran's high school diploma on behalf of a grateful Nation and State.

Thank you for your support of Veterans and their families and for this opportunity to offer my comments.

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

LATE

Date: 04/01/2015

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0181, SD1 RELATING TO VETERANS.

Purpose of Bill: Allows the department of education to continue, until June 30, 2020, awarding high school diplomas to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services of the United States or any person whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices such as internment during World War II. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii Department of Education supports the intent of S.B. 0181, S.D.1. This bill will allow the Department to continue the Kupono Diploma Program, which awards an honorary public high school diploma to:

- 1) military veterans of World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, who were unable to complete their public high school education due to compulsory service in the United States Armed Forces, and
- 2) individuals whose schooling was interrupted due to wartime practices (such as camp internment).

Since 2008, the Department has awarded 24 honorary high school diplomas--23 to military veterans (one posthumously), and most recently, our first honoree that had been transferred from Hawaii in 1942 with her family to internment camps located in Arkansas and California.

Since the program's inception, there have been minimum administrative costs, such as printing and mileage. The Kupono Diploma is managed by the Department's Military Liaison Program that is funded through federal funding. Therefore, additional general funds are not requested from the Legislature at this time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 8:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB181 on Apr 1, 2015 14:00PM

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SB181

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of SB181. Veterans who served our nation, who were inducted into active military service, which interrupted their high school education should be conferred their high school diploma.

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Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii 438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
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March 31, 2015

LATE

**Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 181 SD1
Relating to Veterans Before the
House Committee on Finance
Hearing On Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 2:00 P.M.
In Conference Room 308**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) represents 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

S.B. 181 SD1 Allows the department of education to continue, until June 30, 2020, awarding high school diplomas to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services of the United States or any person whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices such as internment during World War II. (SD1)

VFW Hawaii concurs with the findings of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means: “that compulsory induction into active service in the Armed Services of the United States and other wartime practices caused individuals to defer their educational goals;” and “that continuation of this program to award high school diplomas to these individuals allows them to receive the recognition and gratitude from the State for their wartime sacrifices to their country.”

All VFW Hawaii members are grateful for your effort to provide this opportunity for some of our comrades, whose high school education might have been interrupted by the Vietnam-era draft, to receive their diplomas from the Department of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 181 SD1.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison



LATE

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: APRIL 1, 2015

RE: SB 181, SD1 – AWARDING HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS TO QUALIFIED
VETERANS

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto and Members of the
Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports SB 181, SD1** that continues
the awarding of high school diplomas by the Hawai'i Department of Education to
qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory
induction into active service in the armed services.

Honorably discharged veterans who were unable to complete their high school
education because of service in the armed forces should be granted an honorary
diploma.

HSTA **supports SB 181, SD1.**